



# Black Employment Journal

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## Congressman Bob Filner Supports Student Bill Of Rights Proposal

Congressman Bob Filner announced that he has co-sponsored a "Students Bill of Rights" that would guarantee every student the right to the essentials of learning.

"Access to top-quality education used to be a reality for much of America," said Filner. "But our classrooms have been under attack for a long time — targeted by those who simply don't care about our children and our future. We must remember that the true strength of our nation lies in our well-educated, creative, and curious people. We must guarantee that each and every student in America has access to the essentials necessary for an excellent education."

H.R. 5346, sponsored by Congressmember Chaka Fattah, furthers the goals of the "No Child Left Behind" Act by holding states accountable for providing all students with access to the fundamentals of educational opportunity. Those fundamentals include quality teachers and principals, small classes, quality textbooks and materials, quality libraries, and quality facilities and computers.

The bill requires states to define the amount of yearly progress necessary to bring all schools up to these standards within 12 years.

States can lose up to one third of their administrative funds if they:

- Fail to provide adequate access to each fundamental of educational opportunity.
- Fail to provide comparable educational services among all school districts.
- Fail to comply with certain court orders pertaining to their public school systems.

"There must be no greater priority than education," said Filner. "Our teachers, parents, and students are on the front lines of a battle. We must give them all the support they need."

The bill is supported by a number of organizations including the National Educational Association, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, Council of Great City Schools, and The Institute for Responsible Fatherhood.

Congressman Filner also announced that he has agreed to co-sponsor House Resolution 518, sponsored by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, which recognizes National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, and honors the importance and accomplishments of those institutions. Congresswoman Johnson is Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"Historically Black colleges provide a supportive social and cultural environment for people of color who are seeking a college education," said Filner. "They have opened doors, and changed dreams into possibilities."

Historically Black colleges and universities have educated 75% of all Blacks having Ph.D.s, 46% of all Black business executives, 50% of all Black engineers, and 80% of all Black Federal judges. They have educated an estimated 50% of all Black attorneys and 75% of all Black military officers.

"Historically Black colleges clearly play a central role in the education of people of color in our country," said Filner. "Honoring these institutions is the right thing to do!"